

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A beverage making apparatus including a fluid compartment, a beverage compartment, beverage processing means intermediate said fluid compartment and said beverage compartment, heating means and a built-in user controllable heating power control means having means for selecting one of a plurality of preset discrete heating power levels, ~~said fluid compartment and said beverage compartment being communicable via said beverage processing means~~, said heating means being adapted for heating fluid inside said fluid compartment so that, ~~when in use~~, steam generated in said fluid compartment will force fluid to move from said fluid compartment through said beverage processing means to said beverage compartment ~~via said beverage processing means~~, characterised in that, the heating power of said heating means being variable by said user-controllable heating power control means to that the flavour of beverages made by said apparatus ~~being controllable~~ can be varied by a user by varying the rate of steam production in said fluid compartment through varying the heating power output of said heating means ~~via~~ by operation of said user controllable heating power control means ~~on said apparatus~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A beverage making apparatus according to claim 1 and including a base on which said fluid compartment is supported, said electrical

heating means being a variable power output electrical heating means, wherein the rate of steam production in said fluid compartment ~~being~~ is controllable by selecting one of said plurality of discrete heating power levels for varying the heating power output of said heating means.

3. (Currently Amended) A beverage making apparatus according to claim 2, wherein, ~~when in use,~~ said fluid compartment ~~being~~ is heated by said heating means in said ~~supporting~~ base to generate steam ~~for moving~~ whereby fluid is moved from said fluid compartment to said beverage compartment, and wherein said user-controllable heating power control means further comprises means for gradually adjusting the heating power output of said heating means.

4. (Currently Amended) A beverage making apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said beverage making apparatus ~~including~~ includes a control panel ~~supported~~ on said base, and wherein said heating power control means and a power level indication means are located on said control panel ~~including a power output controlling and indicating means.~~

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus of claim 1, further comprising an overflow means connected to an exit end of said beverage processing means, wherein said heating means ~~including~~ includes electrical heating elements disposed underneath said fluid compartment, the heating power output and the consequential rate of steam generation being variable by said heating power control means, said control means and said heating means being disposed on a housing which is

detachably connectable with either said fluid compartment or said beverage compartment.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said fluid compartment includes a built-in control panel and said beverage compartment being is detachably connectible connected to said fluid compartment so that, when in use, said beverage processing means being is sandwiched between said fluid compartment and said beverage compartment, the plurality of discrete power levels correspond to different power output levels of said heating means, and wherein a higher power output level produces a beverage of a weaker flavor while a lower power output level produces a beverage of a stronger flavor.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the junctions between said beverage processing means and said fluid compartment being are substantially air-tight.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said beverage processing means including includes an overflow means through which fluid from said fluid compartment enters said beverage compartment through.

9. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said overflow means including includes a fluid discharge outlet which is elevated above the bottom portion of said beverage compartment.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1 and including a container having a top portion, a bottom portion, and a peripheral wall interconnecting said top and bottom portions, said beverage processing means being a modular sub-assembly which is slidably movable along said peripheral wall, said beverage processing means including sealing means for partitioning said container into said fluid compartment and said beverage compartment, said beverage compartment being proximal to said top portion of said container.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said apparatus further ~~including~~ includes means for restricting movements of said beverage processing means within said container.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said modular beverage processing means ~~including~~ includes a hollow compartment intermediate of said top and bottom portions of said container for receiving beverage making substances, said modular beverage processing means further including partitioning means for separating said container into said fluid compartment and said beverage compartment, said partitioning means including a fluid blocking member extending between said hollow compartment and said peripheral wall of said container, said beverage compartment being defined between said fluid blocking member and said top portion of said container, said fluid compartment being defined between said blocking member and said bottom portion of said container.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 12, wherein a sealing member is disposed between the outer end of said blocking member and the inside of said peripheral wall of said container.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said sealing member ~~including~~ comprises an O-ring.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said beverage processing means ~~being~~ is restrained within said container by a lid which covers the top portion of said container.

Claims 16-22 (Canceled)